

CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of updating a host application running on a host system in a process plant, wherein the host system is connected to one of a plurality of process control devices used in the process plant, the method comprising:

sending a first command from the host system to ~~the one of a plurality of process control device~~ devices within said plurality of process control devices to request a device description identification ~~for the process control device~~;

receiving the device description identification at the host system ~~from the process control device~~;

downloading a device description associated with the device description identification into the host system using the device description identification; and

updating the host application to include the device description.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein downloading the device description includes downloading the device description from one of a CD-ROM, a diskette, and an online database.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein updating the host application includes copying the device description into the host application.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the host system is a system in a process plant and the device is one of a plurality of process control devices used in the process plant.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further including searching for the device description on the host system based on the device description identification.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein downloading the device description includes:

connecting the host system to a communication network;

requesting the device description from a device description database connected to the communication network; and

receiving the device description from the device description database.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the device description database is one of a Fieldbus database, a Profibus database and a HART communication foundation database.

8. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein downloading the device description includes storing an Internet address of the device description database and using one of an Internet communication protocol and a wireless communication protocol to connect to the device description database.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of providing a software update for a host application running on a host system, the method comprising:

storing a first device description identification identifying a first device description on a first process control device

sending a first command to the first process control device to request ~~at~~the first device description identification ~~identifying a first device description~~, wherein the first device description is used to communicate with the first process control device;

receiving the first device description identification at the host system from the first process control device;

determining if the host system includes the first device description using the first device description identification;

automatically downloading the first device description onto the host system if the host system does not have the first device description; and

updating the host application with the first device description.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, further including storing the first device description information on the host system.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, further including storing the first device description identification, determining if the host system is connected to the Internet, initiating an Internet session if the host system is connected to the Internet, and sending a request to a device description database connected to the Internet for downloading the first device description onto the host system.

12. (Original) The method of claim 9, further including storing on the host system a list relating an identification of a device manufacturer to an Internet address of a device description database provided by the device manufacturer.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the host application is one of (1) an asset management system application, (2) a plant simulation application, (3) a plant maintenance application, (4) a plant monitoring application, and (5) a process control application.

14. (Currently Amended) A computer system for updating a process control host application with a device description of a process control device, the computer system being connected to a device description database via a communication network, the computer system comprising:

a processing unit;

a computer readable memory; and

a software routine stored on the computer readable memory and executable on the processing unit to:

request a device description identification from a process control device;

receive at the device description identification related to the process control device from the process control device,

download the device description of the process control device from the device description database using the device description identification, and

update the host application with the device description.

15. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 14, wherein the software routine is further executable on the processing unit to download the device description using one of an Internet protocol and a wireless communication protocol.

16. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 14, wherein the software routine is further executable on the processing unit to identify a device description language source of the host application, interpret the device description into the device description language source and insert the device description into the host application.

17. (Original) The computer system of claim 14, wherein the host application is one of (1) an asset management system application, (2) a plant simulation application, (3) a plant maintenance application, (4) a plant monitoring application, and (5) a process control application.

18. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 14, wherein the software routine is further to update a remote host application located on a remote computer communicatively connected to the computer system.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer system for use in a process plant having a plurality of process control devices and one or more process applications requiring communication with the plurality of process control devices, the computer system comprising:

a computer readable medium on which computer instructions are stored when executed by a computer processor the computer instructions providing:

a communication module operable to request a device description identification associated with one of the plurality of process control devices of said plurality process control devices from the one process control device;

a storage device operable to receive the device description from the one process control device and store the device description identification;

a search module operable to search for a device description database storing the device description identified by the device description identification;

a downloading module operable to download a device description from the device description database; and

an updating module operable to update one of the one or more process applications with the device description.

20. (Original) The computer system of claim 19, wherein the downloading module communicates with the device description database using the Internet protocol.